

Atty's 21527

Pat. App. 09/601,014

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Entry of this amendment after final action is in order because it opens up no new field of search, introduces no new issues, and clears up minor formal problems with the claims, thereby placing the case in better condition for appeal.

The crux of the instant invention is a system that can be retrofitted to an existing folding machine that is already provided with position sensors at each of the various positionable folding elements. Since the individual elements are manually positionable, the system of this invention merely makes such manual resetting easy by displaying the setting necessary for each element right at the element. Thus the machine operator, without notes or tools, can move from element to element, reading off the necessary setting and appropriately adjusting the element.

It is apparently the examiner's opinion that, since the most modern machines of this type have centralized control of the various positionable elements, the invention described in the claims of this case is not worthy. Since a better system exists, there should be no thought of trying to retrofit an existing

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machine no matter how difficult that might be; instead it should be gotten rid of and replaced with a new centrally programmed machine.

The instant invention is based on the idea that a manufacturer already in possession of a perfectly operational machine of the older type, even though it requires manual resetting, might want to streamline and improve the manual resetting operation without replacing the entire machine. Thus the system of this invention displays at each manually positionable element the setting it should have, so that the machine operator does not have to rely on notes or the like where a setting for one element might be misread and applied to another. This is the system defined in the claims. It is clearly not suggested in the prior art.

With respect to the §112 rejections, the term "display" has been replaced with "display device" so as to clarify that an actual piece of display equipment is provided at each manually positionable machine element. The objected-to phrase in claim 9 has been dropped. Claims 11 and 12 have been left essentially unamended since they are perfectly logical in a machine that is intended for retrofitting to an existing manually set machine. The examiner's comments that the functions defined in claim 11 could be handled centrally is accurate, but since many manually reset machines actually do include actual position calculators at each manually positionable element the claim is accurate. Admittedly if

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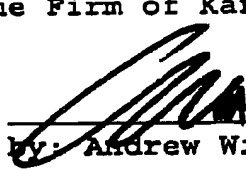
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the examiner's position, that whenever an improved system exists the outdated system should be scrapped and wholly replaced, is accepted, claims 11 and 12 have no logic, but if it is accepted that someone might want to update an outdated machine without wholly replacing it, these claims work.

Accordingly allowance of all claims is in order. In any case entry of this amendment is proper so that an appeal can be taken.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Copy of marked claims

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In the claims:

Cancel claims 1 through 6 without prejudice.

Add the following new claims:

1 7. In a machine for making folded boxes and having
2 manually positionable machine elements for engaging the
3 blanks;

4 respective position sensors associated with the elements
5 for determining actual positions of the respective elements; and
6 a memory connected to the sensors for recording the
7 actual positions determined by the sensors,
8 the improvement comprising

9 a computer connected to the memory and to the position
10 sensors for calculating the difference between the actual positions
11 determined by the sensors and respective desired positions; and
12 a respective display^{device} at each machine element connected to
13 the computer for showing the respective difference between the
14 respective actual position and the respective desired position,
15 whereby an operator of the machine can manually position the
16 elements in accordance with the difference displayed^{by the display device} at each
17 element.

1 8. The improved box-making machine defined in claim 7
2 wher in the computer also calculates a direction in which the

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3 elements must be displaced to move to the desired positions and the
4 ~~displays~~^{devices} show this direction at the respective elements.

1 9. The improved box-making machine defined in claim 7,
2 ~~wherein the computer and memory are a common unit and the machine~~
3 further comprises^{is}

4 a bus system connecting the computer and memory to the
5 sensors.

1 10. The improved box-making machine defined in claim 7
2 wherein the computer and memory are separate units.

1 11. The improved box-making machine defined in claim 7
2 wherein the computer includes a calculator at each position sensor
3 for determining the respective difference.

1 12. The improved box-making machine defined in claim 7
2 wherein each display^{device} is integrated with the position detector of
3 the respective element.